

Appendix K – Archaeological Assessment prepared by Ken Phillips

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT**

**PROPOSED
SUBDIVISION
DEVELOPMENT
CALCUTTA FARMS LTD
MATAMATA**

LOTS 2, 3 & 4 DP 486913

Prepared by

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AUGUST 2020

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INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by Veros Property Managers, on behalf of Calacutta Farms Ltd, in order to determine if archaeological sites are affected by the proposed subdivision development of Lot 2, 3 & 4 DP 486913 located on the eastern side of Matamata township. The development will involve ground disturbance associated with the establishment of roading, building footprints, access drive, utility installation, general landscaping and planting.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the property and it is considered unlikely that previously unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites are located within the property.

This report has been prepared as part of the required assessment of effects accompanying a resource consent application under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and to identify any requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA). Recommendations are made in accordance with statutory requirements.

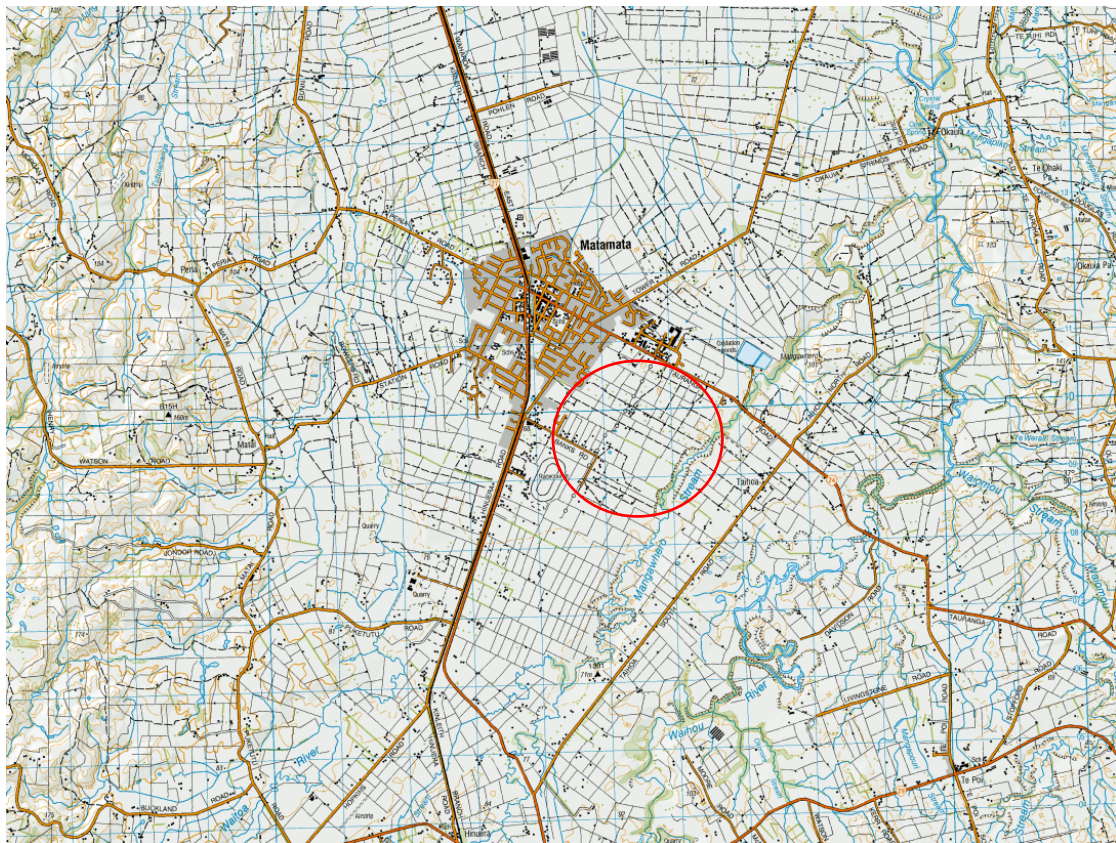


Figure 1. Topographic map showing approximate location of the property circled red.

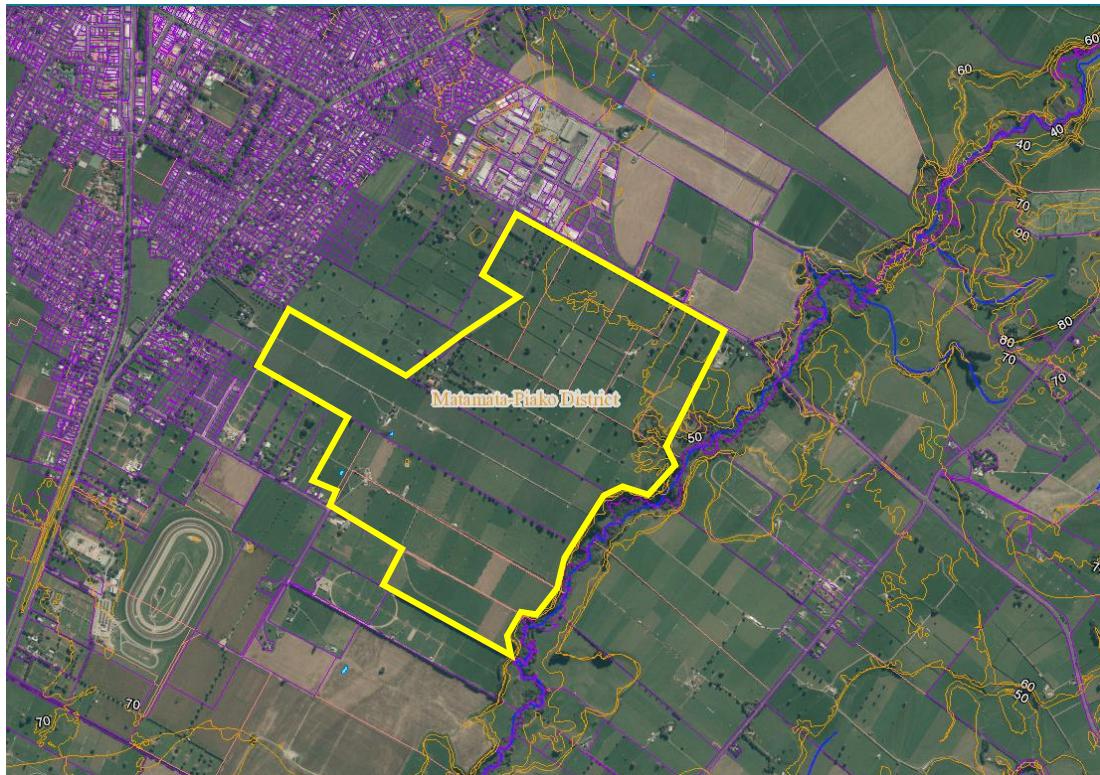


Figure 2. Recent aerial photo showing location extent and current land use within the property (outlined yellow).

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014)

An archaeological site, as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 6(a), is any place in New Zealand, including any building or structure (or part of a building or structure), that (i) was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 or is the site of the wreck of any vessel where the wreck occurred before 1900 and (ii) provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

Archaeological sites cannot be modified or destroyed unless an authority is granted under section 48, 56(1)(b), or 62 in respect of an archaeological site, no person may modify or destroy, or cause to be modified or destroyed, the whole or any part of that site if that person knows, or ought reasonably to have suspected, that the site is an archaeological site.

Resource Management Act (1991)

The RMA 1991 recognizes as matters of national importance: ‘the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu, and other taonga’ (S6(e); and ‘the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development’ (S6(f).

Territorial authorities are required under Section 6 of the RMA to recognise and provide for these matters of national importance when ‘managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources’.

Historic heritage is defined as ‘those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand’s history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: (i) archaeological; (ii) architectural; (iii) cultural; (iv) historic; (v) scientific; (vi) technological’. Historic heritage includes: ‘(i) historic sites, structures, places, and areas; (ii) archaeological sites; (iii) sites of significance to Maori, including wahi tapu; (iv) surroundings associated with the natural and physical resources’.

Constraints and Limitations

This is an assessment of archaeological values and does not include an assessment of Maori values. Consultation with tangata whenua is being carried out independently of this report. An assessment of the cultural significance of an area can only be competently made by the affected tangata whenua. It should be noted that an assessment of cultural significance might not necessarily correlate with an assessment of archaeological significance.

Methodology

Prior to the archaeological survey the records of the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) were consulted in order to determine whether any archaeological sites had previously been recorded within or in the immediate vicinity of land affected by the project. Early survey plans, aerial photos and archaeological reports relating to the area were also reviewed.

The operative Matamata Piako District Plan was reviewed. Eleven heritage items have been identified and scheduled within the Matamata area. The sites all comprise either buildings or other built structures, none of which are located within the Calcutta Farms Ltd property.

A visual inspection of the property was carried out by Archaeology B.O.P. in July 2020. The ground surface was examined for evidence of former occupation (in the form of shell midden, depressions, terracing or other unusual formations within the landscape, or indications of 19th century European settlement remains).

Subsurface testing based on spade test pitting was carried out to determine whether buried archaeological deposits could be identified. Disturbed soils and soil profiles exposed in cuttings were examined where encountered for evidence of earlier settlement, and an understanding of the local soil stratigraphy.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

The property is situated on the Hinuera formation comprising fluviatile pumice, rhyolite and ignimbrite sands and gravels which characterise the broad Waihou River valley to the north. It encompasses flat to gentle undulating land bounded to the west of the Matamata township and to the east by the Mangawhero Stream being a tributary of the Waihou River. It has been used for pastoral grazing and more recently cropping. Modifications to the natural topography and soil profiles are primarily limited to successive ploughing since 2015. Some recent earthwork has occurred during the harvesting of pines on the Mangawhero Stream escarpment and an area recently stripped of topsoil (Figure 6)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

There are no recorded archaeological sites within or in a 2km radius of the property. The nearest site clusters occur within the Waihou River catchment to the east and on the flanks of Te Tapui to the west. The nearest recorded site to the property comprises a historic house and tower (T14/130) located approximately 3km to the north of the property. No previously unrecorded archaeological sites have been reported during earthwork associated with residential subdivision developments of neighbouring properties to the west.

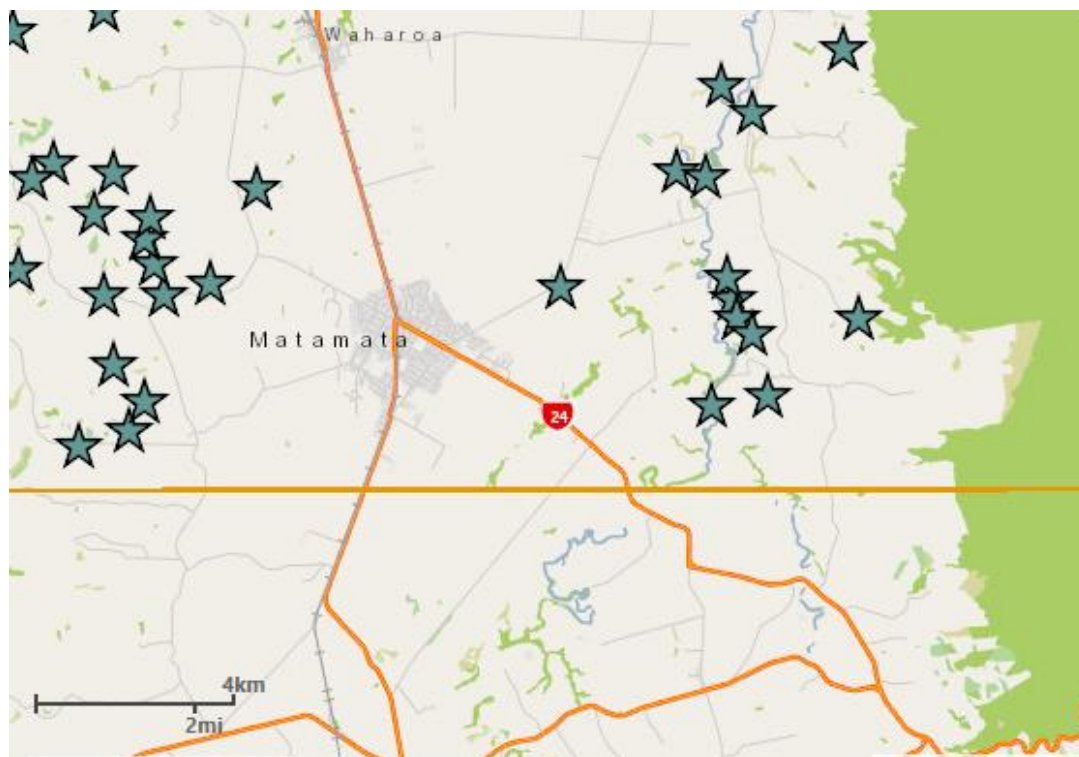


Figure 3. Cadastral plan showing the location of recorded archaeological sites within and in the general vicinity of Lot 2 DP 512692 (outlined yellow).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

No previously unrecorded archaeological sites with surface expression were identified within the property and no evidence for the presence of unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites were identified within spade test pits and exposed soils profiles during the July 2020 archaeological survey of the property. In addition to spade test pitting, recently ploughed areas were inspected for evidence of artifacts midden or modified soils however none were identified.



Figure 4. Photo showing typical soil profile within the property.



Figure 5. Photo showing area recently stripped of topsoil inspected during the July 2020 survey.



Figure 6. View looking north east showing recent earthwork during the harvesting of pines from the western Mangawhero Stream escarpment.



Figure 7. View looking west showing the level contour of the property and recent ploughed and planted areas inspected during the July 2020 survey.

SUMMARY & ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the property and no previously unrecorded sites were identified during the July 2020 archaeological survey of the property. The potential for encountering unrecorded subsurface archaeological features is considered low, however it is not possible to provide absolute assurance that sites will not be encountered during earthwork associated with the subdivision development given the extensive area affected and the limited subsurface testing carried out as part of this assessment.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report is an assessment of impact on archaeological values and does not include an assessment of Maori values. Such an assessment can only be made by the tangata whenua. It should be noted that archaeological survey techniques based on visual inspection and minor subsurface testing cannot necessarily detect all possible subsurface archaeological features, nor identify wahi tapu and other sites of traditional significance to Maori, especially where these have no physical remains.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for avoidance or mitigation are provided below.

1. That in the event that intact archaeological features are encountered during ground disturbance associated with the subdivision development all work must stop in the immediate area and Heritage New Zealand contacted immediately in order to establish an appropriate mitigation strategy.
2. That if koiwi tangata (human remains) are encountered, no further modification of the site concerned shall occur until tangata whenua and the HNZ have been advised and their responses received.
3. Archaeological survey cannot always detect sites of traditional value to Maori, such as wahi tapu. Tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the possible existence of such sites and informed of the recommendations of this report.